

MAPPING AND ANALYZING RACE AND ETHNICITY

Activity Items

The following items are part of this activity and appear at the end of this student version.

- Item 1: Largest Ancestry, 2000
- Item 2: “Analyzing the Distribution of Race and Ethnicity in the United States” Presentation

This activity also uses the following online tool:

- Census Data Mapper www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/datamapper.html

Student Learning Objectives

- I will be able to compare, contrast, and describe the distribution of races and ethnicities in the United States.
- I will be able to speculate what factors might have influenced the spatial concentration of racial or ethnic groups in specific geographic areas.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Part 1 – Explore Population Maps

In this activity you will use the *Census Data Mapper tool* to compare and contrast spatial concentrations of races and ethnicities in the United States. Follow the steps below in the online tool to create your maps:

1. Set the data theme to “Population and Race.”
2. Set the data table to the race or ethnicity that matches each table title below (e.g., “Percent White” or “Percent Black or African-American”).
3. Choose whatever color palette you prefer.
4. Set the number of classes to 5.
5. Set the classification type to “Equal Interval.”
6. Click “Make Your Map.”
7. Zoom in and out and use the Display Data Table feature to complete the first two columns of the graphic organizer below.
8. Complete the third column of the graphic organizer after your teacher shows the slides from **Item 2: “Analyzing the Distribution of Race and Ethnicity in the United States” Presentation**. (You can follow along with the slide printouts at the end of this activity.)

Percent White

Area	Geographic Distributions	Possible Historical Explanations	Presentation Notes
Nation			
My State			

Percent Black or African-American

Area	Geographic Distributions	Possible Historical Explanations	Presentation Notes
Nation			
My State			

Percent American Indian and Alaska Native

Area	Geographic Distributions	Possible Historical Explanations	Presentation Notes
Nation			
My State			

Percent Asian

Area	Geographic Distributions	Possible Historical Explanations	Presentation Notes
Nation			
My State			

Percent Hispanic or Latino

Area	Geographic Distributions	Possible Historical Explanations	Presentation Notes
Nation			
My State			

Part 2 – Test Your Understanding

Choose the best answer for the following multiple-choice questions.

1. Which term refers to the spread (e.g., clustered or dispersed) of people or things across space?
 - a. Concentration
 - b. Scale
 - c. Pattern
 - d. Region

2. Which best describes the geographic distribution of blacks or African-Americans (based on the percentage of the total population) in the United States?
 - a. Clustered in southeastern states and northern cities
 - b. Clustered in Northern California and Pacific Northwest cities
 - c. Clustered along the U.S.-Mexico border
 - d. Clustered on reservations dispersed among midwestern and western states
 - e. Make up 60 percent or more of the population in most U.S. counties

3. Which best describes the geographic distribution of whites (based on the percentage of the total population) in the United States?
 - a. Clustered in southeastern states and northern cities
 - b. Clustered in Northern California and Pacific Northwest cities
 - c. Clustered along the U.S.-Mexico border
 - d. Clustered on reservations dispersed among midwestern and western states
 - e. Make up 60 percent or more of the population in most U.S. counties

4. Which best describes the geographic distribution of Asians (based on the percentage of the total population) in the United States?
 - a. Clustered in southeastern states and northern cities
 - b. Clustered in Northern California and Pacific Northwest cities
 - c. Clustered along the U.S.-Mexico border
 - d. Clustered on reservations dispersed among midwestern and western states
 - e. Make up 60 percent or more of the population in most U.S. counties

5. Which best describes the geographic distribution of Hispanics or Latinos (based on the percentage of the total population) in the United States?
 - a. Clustered in southeastern states and northern cities
 - b. Clustered in Northern California and Pacific Northwest cities
 - c. Clustered along the U.S.-Mexico border
 - d. Clustered on reservations dispersed among midwestern and western states
 - e. Make up 60 percent or more of the population in most U.S. counties

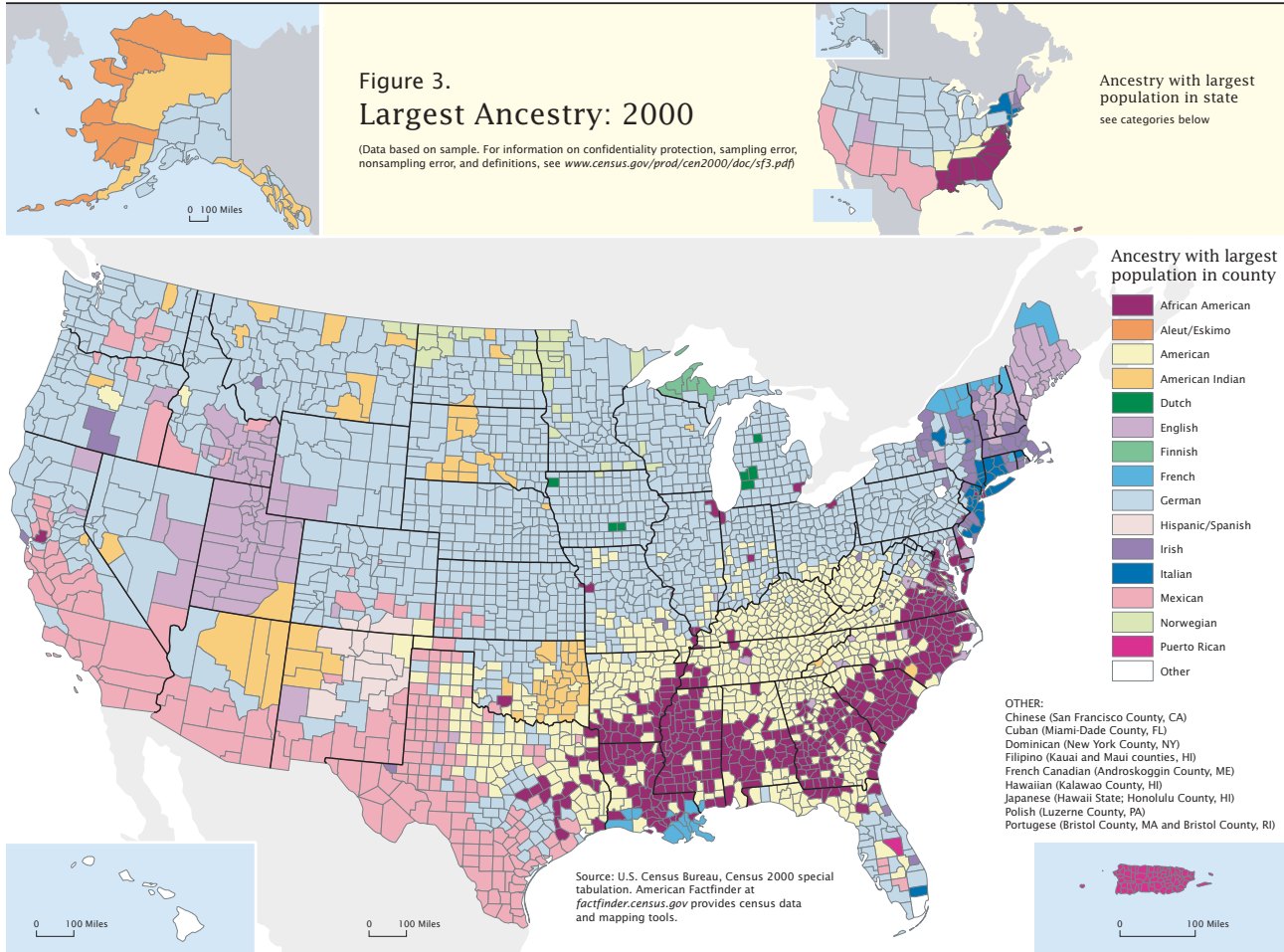
6. Which best describes the geographic distribution of American Indians and Alaska Natives (based on the percentage of the total population) in the United States?
 - a. Clustered in southeastern states and northern cities
 - b. Clustered in Northern California and Pacific Northwest cities
 - c. Clustered along the U.S.-Mexico border
 - d. Clustered on reservations dispersed among midwestern and western states
 - e. Make up 60 percent or more of the population in most U.S. counties

Part 3 – Reflect on Population Distributions

1. Identify and explain three ways the geographic distribution of races or ethnicities varies in the United States.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Identify and discuss how a historic migration influenced the distribution and concentration of a particular race or ethnicity in America.
3. How does the variation of races or ethnicities impact the overall cultural landscape (e.g., religion, language, education, cuisine, politics) of the United States?
4. Which geographic patterns concerning race or ethnicity surprised you about the United States? Why?

Item 1: Largest Ancestry, 2000

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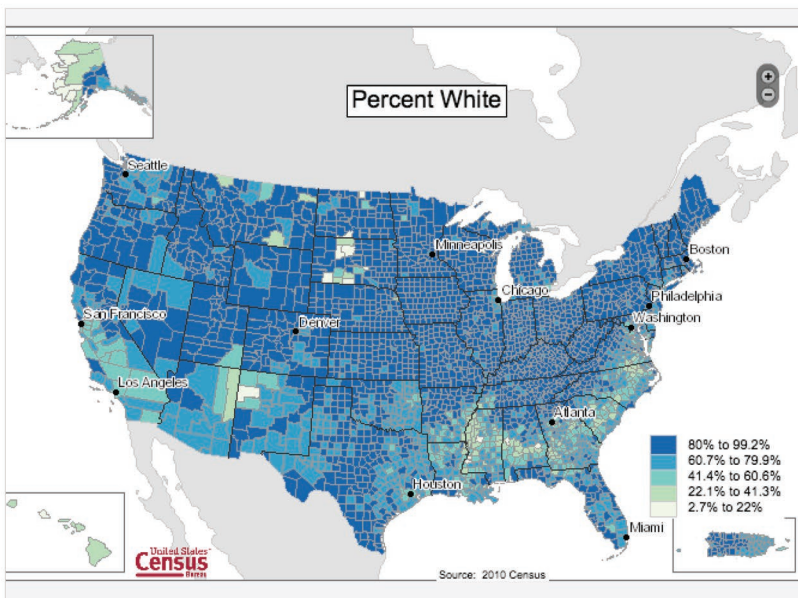


www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/c2kbr-35.pdf

To view the item online, click on the link above and go to Page 8.

Analyzing the Distribution of Race and Ethnicity in the United States

Distribution of Whites



Geographic Distribution

- Most counties in the United States are 60 percent or more white.
- Exceptions include parts of the Southeast, the Southwest, southern California, and some major cities.

datamapper.geo.census.gov/map.html

To recreate the map online, click on the link above and follow the steps outlined for students in part 1 of the activity.

Item 2: "Analyzing the Distribution of Race and Ethnicity in the United States" Presentation (Continued)

Distribution of Whites (Continued)



Statue of Liberty and New York Harbor, 1891 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)

Historical Explanations

- The English, Scots, and Dutch migrated to America during the colonial period.
- During the 18th century, the majority of immigrants came to America from all parts of Europe.
- The major East Coast center was Ellis Island.

www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2002716179

Click on the link above to view the image online.

Distribution of Whites (Continued)



Proportion of Whites of Foreign Parentage, 1890 (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division)

Historical Explanations

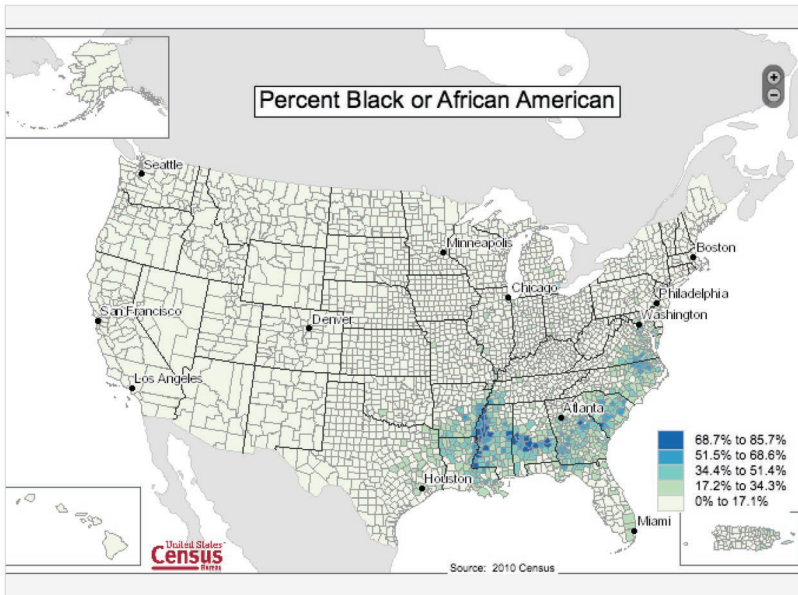
- The English, Scots, and Dutch migrated to America during the colonial period.
- During the 18th century, the majority of immigrants came to America from all parts of Europe.
- The major East Coast center was Ellis Island.

www.loc.gov/resource/g3701gm.gct00010/?sp=33

Click on the link above to view the map online.

Item 2: "Analyzing the Distribution of Race and Ethnicity in the United States" Presentation (Continued)

Distribution of Blacks



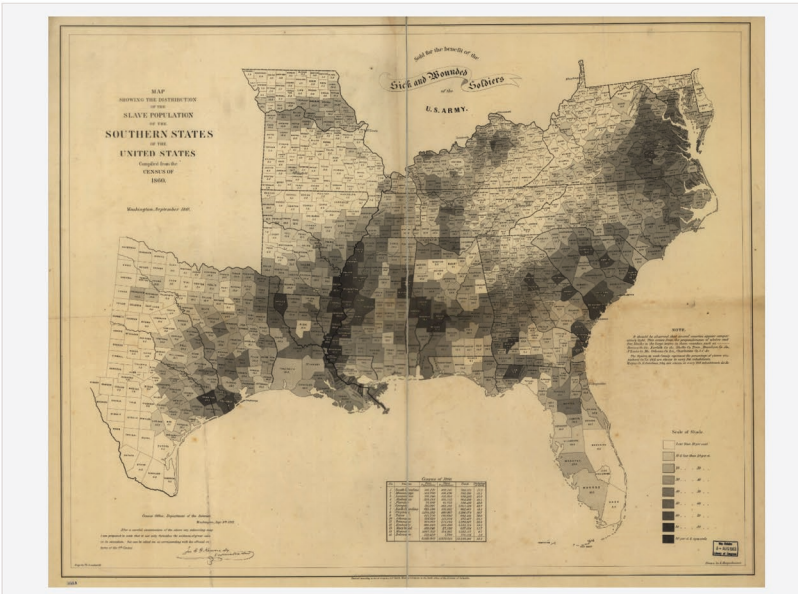
Geographic Distribution

- The highest clusters are in the Southeast and in northern cities.
- Mississippi and Alabama have the highest percentages.
- There is a distinct pattern along the lower Mississippi River.

datamapper.geo.census.gov/map.html

To recreate the map online, click on the link above and follow the steps outlined for students in part 1 of the activity.

Distribution of Blacks (Continued)



Slave Population of the Southern States of the United States, 1860 (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division)

Historical Explanations

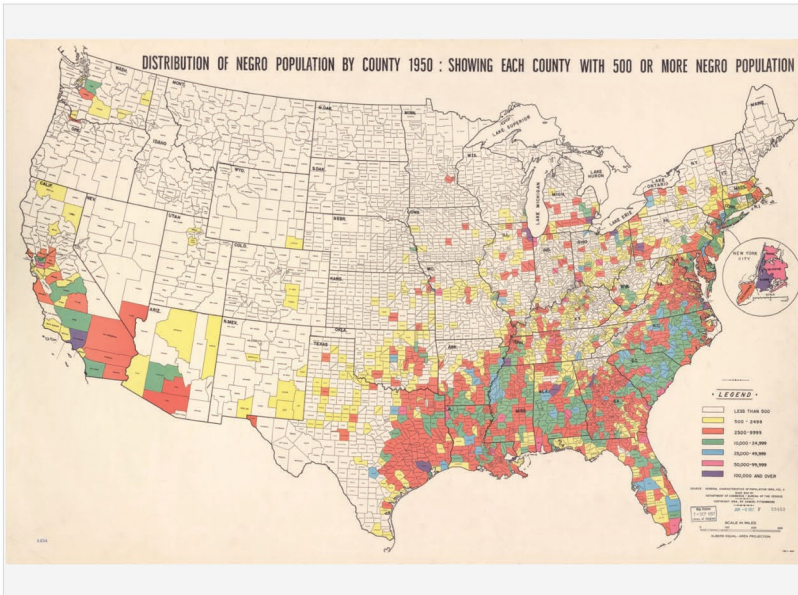
- Forced migration and the transatlantic slave trade brought native Africans to the American South.
- The domestic slave trade contributed to African-American migration until 1865.
- The Great Migration of 6 million African-Americans from the rural South to northern, midwestern, and western cities occurred between 1910 and 1970.

www.loc.gov/resource/g3861e.cw0013200

Click on the link above to view the map online.

Item 2: "Analyzing the Distribution of Race and Ethnicity in the United States" Presentation (Continued)

Distribution of Blacks (Continued)



Distribution of Negro Population by County 1950 (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division)

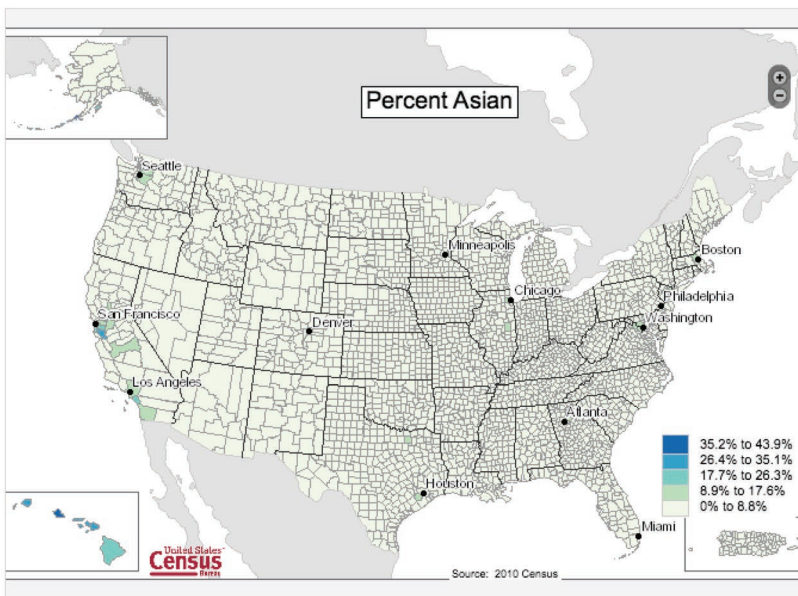
Historical Explanations

- Forced migration and the transatlantic slave trade brought native Africans to the American South.
- The domestic slave trade contributed to African-American migration until 1865.
- The Great Migration of 6 million African-Americans from the rural South to northern, midwestern, and western cities occurred between 1910 and 1970.

www.loc.gov/item/2013593062

Click on the link above to view the map online.

Distribution of Asians



Geographic Distribution

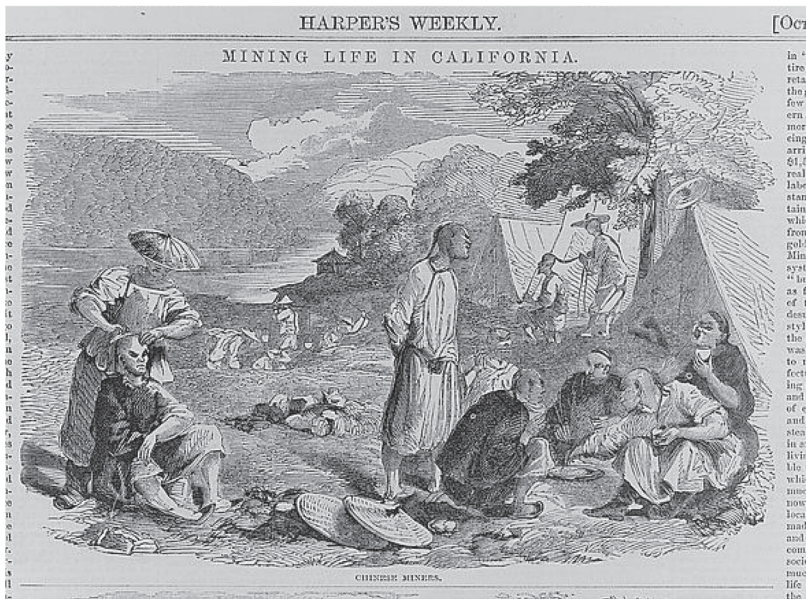
- Clusters are in California and the Pacific Northwest.

datamapper.geo.census.gov/map.html

To recreate the map online, click on the link above and follow the steps outlined for students in part 1 of the activity.

Item 2: "Analyzing the Distribution of Race and Ethnicity in the United States" Presentation (Continued)

Distribution of Asians (Continued)



Mining Life in California - Chinese miners, 1857 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)

Historical Explanations

- Historic migration occurred during the California Gold Rush and with the Transcontinental Railroad.
- Ethnic neighborhoods (Chinatown) were established in both New York City and San Francisco.

www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2001700332

Click on the link above to view the image online.

Distribution of Asians (Continued)



The Vegetable Peddler, Chinatown, San Francisco (1896-1906) (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)

Historical Explanations

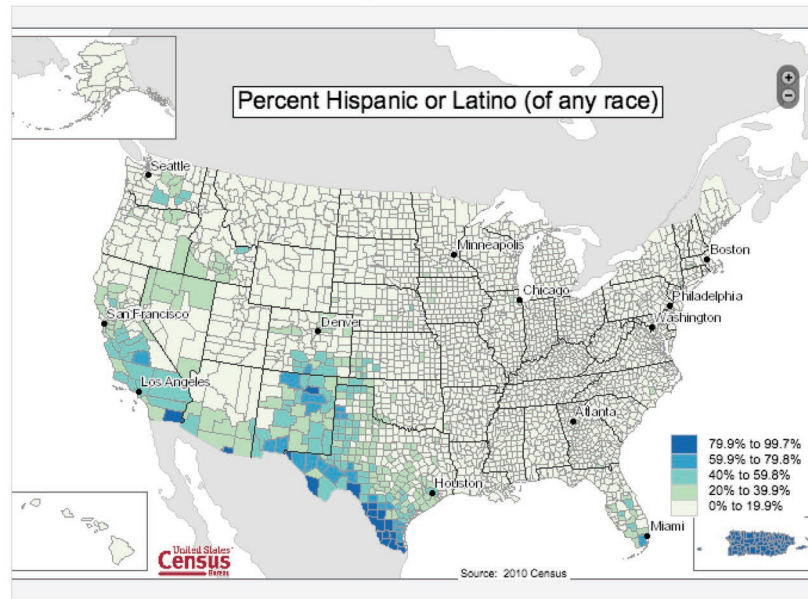
- Historic migration occurred during the California Gold Rush and with the Transcontinental Railroad.
- Ethnic neighborhoods (Chinatown) were established in both New York City and San Francisco.

www.loc.gov/pictures/item/agc1996001224/PP

Click on the link above to view the image online.

Item 2: "Analyzing the Distribution of Race and Ethnicity in the United States" Presentation (Continued)

Distribution of Hispanics



Geographical Distribution

Clusters are in:

- The American Southwest
- Regions near the U.S.-Mexico border
- Southern California
- The Pacific Northwest
- Florida (Miami)

datamapper.geo.census.gov/map.html

To recreate the map online, click on the link above and follow the steps outlined for students in part 1 of the activity.

Distribution of Hispanics (Continued)



Map of the United States, 1831 (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division)

Historical Explanations

- Spanish settlement of American Southwest
- Mexican-American War and Mexican cession
- Texas independence and annexation
- Cuban migration
- Proximity to Mexico's border
- Modern-day legal and illegal immigration

www.loc.gov/item/2011594841

Click on the link above to view the map online.

Item 2: "Analyzing the Distribution of Race and Ethnicity in the United States" Presentation (Continued)

Distribution of Hispanics (Continued)



Mapa de los Estados Unidos de Méjico, 1847 (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division)

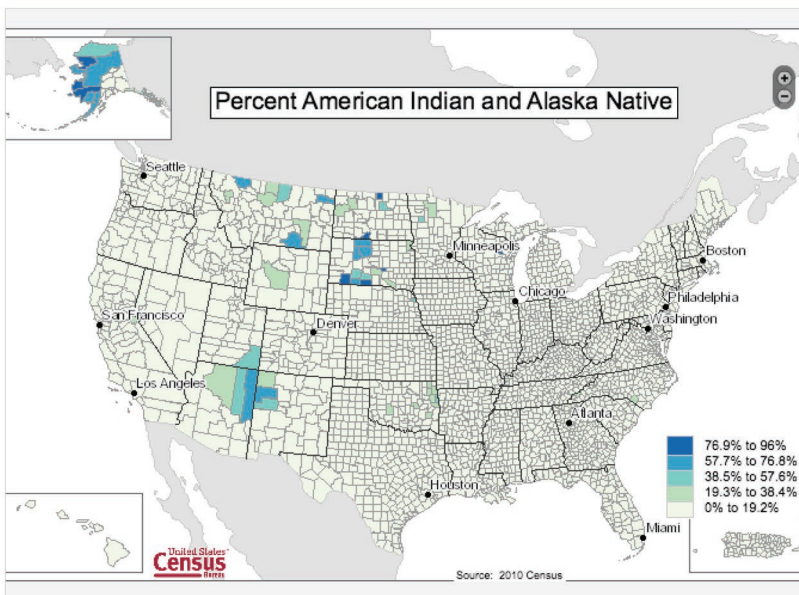
Historical Explanations

- Spanish settlement of American Southwest
- Mexican-American War and Mexican cession
- Texas independence and annexation
- Cuban migration
- Proximity to Mexico's border
- Modern-day legal and illegal immigration

www.loc.gov/item/2004627240

Click on the link above to view the map online.

Distribution of American Indians



Geographic Distribution

Clusters are in:

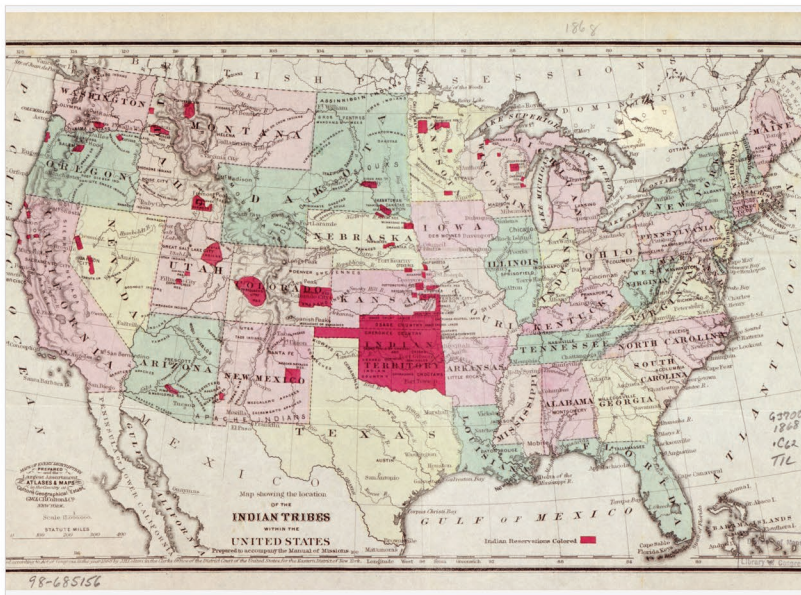
- The Four Corners region
- North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana
- Eastern Oklahoma

datamapper.geo.census.gov/map.html

To recreate the map online, click on the link above and follow the steps outlined for students in part 1 of the activity.

Item 2: "Analyzing the Distribution of Race and Ethnicity in the United States" Presentation (Continued)

Distribution of American Indians (Continued)



Indian Tribes Within the United States, 1868 (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division)

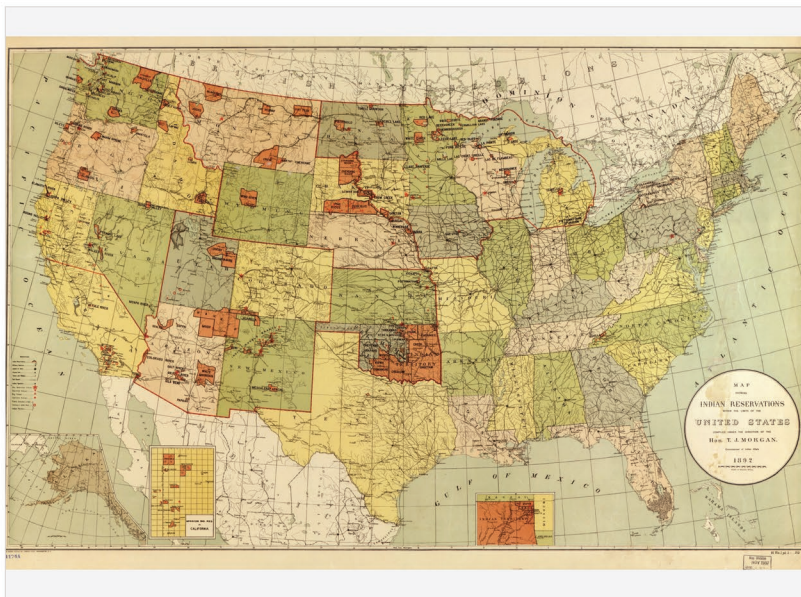
Historical Explanations

- Indian Removal Act
- Forced migration during the Trail of Tears
- Creation of Indian reservations, mostly in the Midwest and West

www.loc.gov/item/98685156

Click on the link above to view the map online.

Distribution of American Indians (Continued)



American Indian Reservations Within the Limits of the United States, 1892 (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division)

Historical Explanations

- Indian Removal Act
- Forced migration during the Trail of Tears
- Creation of Indian reservations, mostly in the Midwest and West

www.loc.gov/resource/g3701g.ct002305

Click on the link above to view the map online.

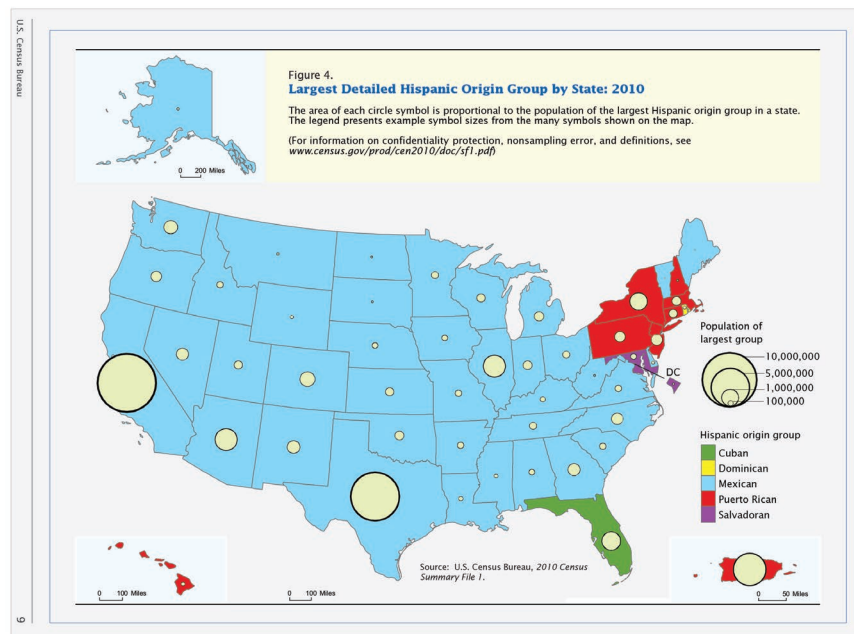
Item 2: "Analyzing the Distribution of Race and Ethnicity in the United States" Presentation (Continued)

Shortcomings of Choropleth Maps

Choropleth maps can be valuable for showing distributions of race and ethnicity in America, but they do have limitations:

- Choropleth maps by their nature generalize data distribution. The distributions and concentrations that they show will change depending on the scale or level of analysis.
- The key takeaway: The more localized the analysis, the more accurately the distributions are mapped and visualized. The following slides showcase how the distribution of Hispanics and Latinos in California can look different at different scales (i.e., at the state, county, census tract, and census block levels).

Hispanic and Latino Distribution (State Level)

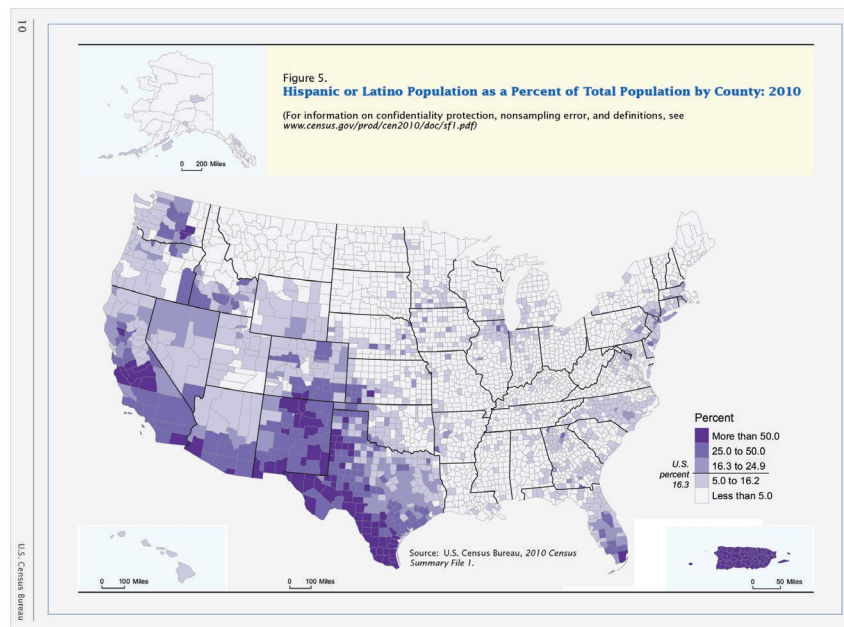


www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-04.pdf

To view the map online, click on the link above and go to Page 9.

Item 2: "Analyzing the Distribution of Race and Ethnicity in the United States" Presentation (Continued)

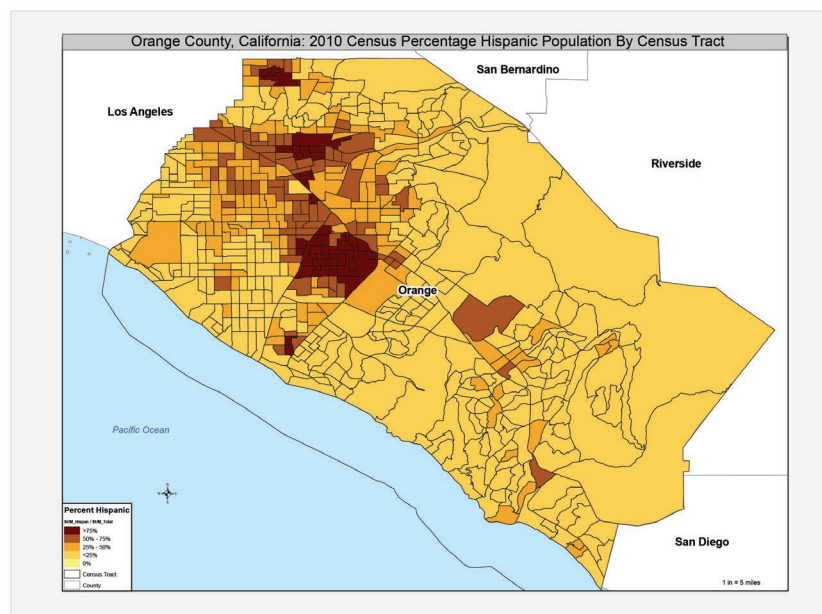
Hispanic and Latino Distribution (County Level)



www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-04.pdf

To view the map online, click on the link above and go to Page 10.

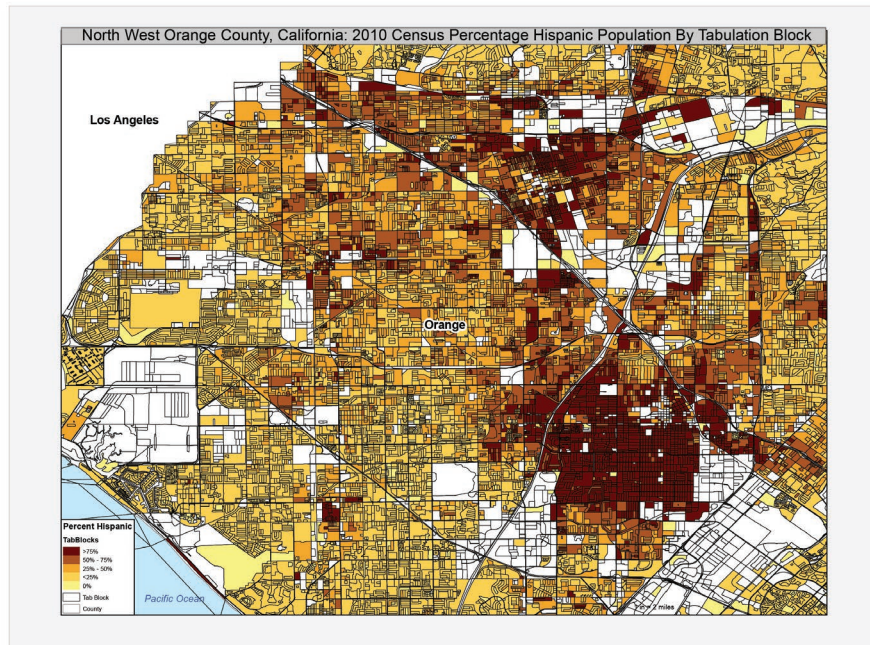
Hispanic and Latino Distribution (Tract Level)



Source data: Northwest Orange County, California. 2010 Census, Percentage Hispanic Population.

Item 2: "Analyzing the Distribution of Race and Ethnicity in the United States" Presentation (Continued)

Hispanic and Latino Distribution (Block Level)



Source data: Northwest Orange County, California. 2010 Census, Percentage Hispanic Population.